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and numerous pelicans, &c. A (supposed) tidal rise of 4 feet observed. Camels then went astray, and prevented progress till above date.]

*May 17.*—Started on bearing of N.  $44\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  W., over good open country. At  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles, came to and crossed a creek coming up from S.S.W.; in that direction there are falls and sheets of rock quite across it and forming above and below them splendid reaches of deep water, with numberless ducks, &c., and black macaws and gillates in thousands. Plenty of water in our course beyond the creek for half to three-quarters of a mile; then over plains intersected with thin belts of small trees—the river not far off on our right. At  $7\frac{1}{4}$  miles changed course to  $12^{\circ}$  more W., keeping a little farther from the river. At  $15\frac{3}{4}$  miles got to camp. About 2 miles from this, and on our left as we came along, is a fine lagoon in the midst of timber. The tide it appears rises here from 6 to 10 feet. *Distance,  $15\frac{3}{4}$  miles.*

*May 18.*—Through country full of lagoons. Where we camped we were perfectly surrounded by salt water, the river on one side and the mangrove creeks and salt flats on the other; country very very much burned by the natives—it was dry enough as it was without the additional use of fire. Lots of the water-lily in bloom on all the deep water-holes and lagoons, and a very handsome tree with dark green foliage and a beautiful yellow blossom, and completely loaded with a round fruit of the size of a crab-apple, now green, and containing a number of large-sized seeds. *Distance, 28 miles.*

*May 19.* Camp 60.—In camp near the river, where are caught occasionally by the party a few fish, amongst others a young shark which, however, was not eaten; started out this morning with the intention of going to the beach; but was quite unsuccessful, being hindered by deep and broad mangrove creeks and boggy flats over which our horses could not travel. There is a rise here in the river of six and two-thirds feet to-day, but yesterday it was a foot higher; killed our three remaining sheep, and on 21st decided to return by Queensland.

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(b). MCKINLAY's *Journey from Carpentaria to Port Denison.*

*May 21.* Camp 60.—Commenced journey for Port Denison. (I forgot to mention before, that running parallel with the river, between this camp and our last are small ironstone and conglomerate ridges, with abundance of feed and good sound ground, wooded with the silver-leaf, dwarf gum-looking tree, and various others of no great growth but slightly, and in the ridges which are of no height to speak of, there are splendid freshwater lagoons and creeks.) Came to a lagoon about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles S.S.W. of our Camp 59,

on nearly our old tracks; splendid feed and water. Just as we had started in the morning, the natives made their appearance on the trees on the opposite side of the river, but did not attempt to cross. I suppose we shall see enough of them on our eastern route; this part of the country is well watered, and no end of feed; plenty of it higher than I am, and a considerable variety. (Distance not stated.)

*May 22.*—Returned to-day by my north-going track, the approaches to the river were so abrupt that I could not get a crossing place; some of the banks nearly precipitous and from 100 to 150 feet high, although I saw rocks right across the river, and could have gone over, but could not ascend the banks, so came to camp at a lagoon close to the creek,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles north  $25\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  west of camp of 11th May.

*May 23.*—At starting crossed creek, and at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles made the river, where it is joined by another of quite equal size apparently, but no crossing place; so had to go about 1 mile s.s.w. to the falls and crossed there with some difficulty, getting one of the camels and several of the horses down in the clefts of the rocks, and barking their knees a little; just after crossing and proceeding on bearing of E.  $5\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  S., a marked tree was observed, the first we had seen, and then close by two others, evidently by Mr. Landsborough, of whom had hitherto seen no traces. At scarcely 1 mile, on same bearing, we came to the falls of the other branch of the river, and crossed it much more easily than the other; it is about 400 to 500 yards broad, and all conglomerate stone and quite treeless, or nearly so, on its banks as far as the stones went; it then bore off to the south-east, or perhaps east of that; at 3 miles further, seeing ridges a-head on our course, we camped at a swamp; lots of geese and ibis. Distance, 9 miles.

*May 24.*—Geese and all game very difficult to be got at in this part of the country. Started on same bearing over swamp and lagoon, with occasional ironstone ridges and gum strips. Distance,  $18\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

*May 25.*—Nothing remarkable. Same country. Distance, 18 miles.

*May 26.*—Wind all night strong from s.e. to s.s.e., and very cold; no dew. The waters are drying up very fast; during the afternoon of yesterday the country looked well; nice open ranges on all sides with a large space of open country, well grassed in the centre. Started on same bearing and for an hour passed rather thickly wooded (low), small ironstone, pebbly country, well grassed, ridgy on both sides; then entered open plains; large creek a-head; first part of plain much subject to inundation. Hills cease about 4 miles; passed a couple of belts of timber. Camped on swamp. Distance, 17 miles.

*May 27.*—Cold keen wind from S.S.E. Camels very lame, caused by the burnt reeds running through the soles of their feet whilst near the coast; boots of leather have been made for the worst of them, but they seem to suffer much, and it pulls the flesh off them more than their work. Started on same bearing; country all burnt. This is a most deceitful part of the country, every five minutes you are in expectation of coming to water, but it was our fate to meet none but a muddy little drop—barely sufficient for our own use, and none for the animals. From about 3 P.M. till we camped, heavy belts of swampy box and large gums; many patches of reeds and coarse grass; water recently dried up; and belts of plain. Numerous birds seen—cockatoos, hawks, crows, gulahs, &c. (Distance not given.)

*May 28.*—Found almost within view, two splendid lagoons. Immediately returned to camp, and moved it at once to the nearest one; it bears from last night's camp nearly due south, a quarter of a mile or little over; the other lagoon is distant about 300 yards south-east of this. Great abundance of feed. Although we met with no water coming along last afternoon, I have no doubt but that there was plenty of it, as the natives were burning everywhere as we came along, particularly close on our right. It is still a splendid country for grass and timber. Distance, half a mile.

*May 29 to June 2.*—At camp.

[*Notes.*—If these lagoons are permanent (and no doubt there are many more) this is a splendid pastoral country—feed good enough for any stock, and timber to suit almost any purpose. There are here several fruit-bearing trees, but unfortunately the stone happens to be the largest portion of the fruit, and at present none of them are ripe. A vast quantity of large beans are here on a runner, the same that Dr. Leichhardt used when burnt for coffee, and rather seemed to like. None of our party seem to care trying it, although we have now nothing but meat and salt, and from 4 to 5 lbs. of flour, to make gruel in case of sickness. All have been, till within the last few days, in excellent health and appetite.

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Had a visit from a number of natives, they do not appear so shy as usual; they do not circumcise, but have one or two teeth out in front of upper jaw. From what I could see, the young men are not allowed to talk, but merely make a hissing and twittering noise to make themselves understood, and point and motion with the hand, whilst the old men do the talking business. I could make but little out of them. I made them a few presents, with which they seemed much pleased; got a few words of their language, and with a promise to return to-morrow, they took their leave. They are not at all such a good sample as are

at the lakes north and east of Lake Hope. They say there is plenty of water a-head on the course I intend to take, but from want of knowledge of their language could glean nothing of the parties that came in search to the north coast; but that they have seen whites was quite evident from their knowledge of the use of the axe. They seemed much in dread of the camels, and expressed, by motions, a desire that they should be driven away.

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Although the country still travelling eastward is rather too thickly wooded to be called open forest, it is still an excellent pastoral country, grasses sweet, plenty of water, the lagoons covered with water-lily, and soil sandy. There are many patches of burnt ground, some burnt earlier than the rest, with green grass 9 to 12 inches high.]

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Stopped short on 2nd June for patients, who are very weak. Several palms seen through the forest, a few close by our camp of no great height; the feed in general is very dry, except in the neighbourhood of the creeks or lagoons. Distance,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

June 3.—Three creeks appear to rise here and join and become one, all from the southward of east to north of west. Started on bearing E.  $51\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  S. through open forest; country sand and scrub; camped in thick forest; no water. Distance, 25 miles.

June 4.—Went over poor ground,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and camped.

June 5. Camp 11.—Very scrubby for a few miles, and then more open forest. After three hours came to a large and broad creek, or mass of creeks, or river. Water not abundant on account of its being sandy in its bed. Distance,  $10\frac{3}{4}$  miles. (I should imagine the river to be the Flinders, but if so, it must turn after it passes this very much to the west, to enter the sea near where it is laid down on the charts. Its bed, pretty well the whole way across, is wooded with the paper-like barked, narrow-leaf tree, and a few other shrubs. It appears as if there was not at all a heavy flood down it this season, as few or none of the trees are washed down.)

June 6.—Still on general course, bearing of E.  $51\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  S., over open-timbered, well-grassed land. Through same land, crossing rivers or creeks. All the creeks and the river have lots of cork-screw palms in and near them. Good forest all day, and abundance of grass. Distance,  $13\frac{1}{4}$  miles.

June 7.—Over burnt-up ridges, and after 5 hours, drainage south and west chiefly, struck the River Flinders, or one of its largest branches. Crossed over and camped at a long sheet of water in its bed on south-eastern side. Distance on course,  $16\frac{3}{4}$  miles.

June 8 to 11 at (Return) Camp 14.—A great abundance of the

McKenzie River began here on the sandy parts of the watercourse. Here the watercourse is about 100 yards broad, in many places, bergues of sand separating it into different channels. Wild dogs abundant. Saw traces of kangaroo, emu, and wallaby on our way here yesterday. This sheet of water is from 250 to 300 yards long and 20 yards broad. On reconnoitring found that the watercourse comes from north, or a little west of north, from between the heavy-timbered ranges to north and west, and bald hills, or nearly so, to north and east, and probably winds round nearer its sources more to the east. A number of thinly-wooded hills, with small creeks running from them to west and south appear to run round south for some distance, perhaps 10 to 15 miles or more. Beyond the highest, in the distance, the natives are busy burning, and this leads me to suppose they are on the other or principal branch of the Flinders River. Abundance of water in the small creeks, as far east and south as I went to-day, and some lagoons in the flats. Our food now consists of about 230 lbs. of dry and salt beef, everything else in the shape of food gone; but I think we will have sufficient to carry us into the settled districts of Queensland, on the Burdekin River, where we shall be able to get a fresh supply. We have a little salt, and amongst the lot about half a pound of soap. The bed of this branch here is one mass of concrete and conglomerate, with small and large masses of ironstone, just as if it had lately escaped from a furnace, with pebbles and pieces of quartz, some sandstone, and sandstone in which is a mass of quartz. In many other places it is quite a bed of sand its full width, and in other places separated into different branches by bergues of alluvial deposit and sand, with trees of different kinds and shrubs and reeds upon them. There is a table-topped hill down on or near the north-west bank a few miles, lightly-wooded from N.N.E. to south-west, and apparently stony. Started E.  $20^{\circ}$  S. for first few miles through open forest, intersected with small creeks flowing to west and south, some containing water with lagoons on the flat occasionally, the drainage of the ranges to the eastward and north of our course. The spurs coming down close on our left, stony, but well grassed, and very lightly timbered, in fact, nearly bald ridges. Thence bore for south-west end of large range in the distance, that would otherwise come right across my original course. There is an immense large black circular range from E.S.E., round by south to W.N.W., with reaphook-like faces and scrubby tops, and a number of detached conical and coronet-shaped hills. Afterwards some difficulty in getting over and down a rocky range (granite principally). Struck a small creek, with sufficient water for our use, and good feed, and camped. Distance, 16 miles.

*June 12.*—Started E.S.E., and in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hour, after scrambling and creeping over rocks and precipices, arrived at south-west end of

large hill. From top you command an extensive view ; the whole country is black and dismal in appearance in every direction ; a fine large range appears in the distance, ranging east to S.S.E., with well-defined gaps, &c., drainage all to the southward and westward. Now rounded this hill and went on a bearing of E.  $10^{\circ}$  S., just after beginning to descend traced a party of horses going northward under eastern side of large range, apparently when the ground was wet. Descended much more easily than we ascended ; we got into a fine valley with good timber and plenty of grass, and in about 3 miles, came to a running creek from northward. Traces of a hurricane along the creek—tops of all the trees on the ground or suspended in the air by bits of bark ; the timber on each bank does not appear, here at least, to have been touched. This large hill is composed of sandstone of various degrees of fineness, quartz, pebbles, &c., principally. At camp the creek or river is timbered across with the narrow-leaved papery-barked tree ; some short distance up the stream from here this description of timber nearly gives place to gums. I have no doubt but that some day or other this place will be taken up as a station. Fish are in the deep holes, some that I saw about a couple of pounds' weight. I also saw some young guardfish, from 9 inches to 12 inches long, and many smaller. Lots of euro and kangaroo, but very shy. Distance, 6 miles.

*June 13.* Camp 16.—I take this to be the main branch of the Flinders ; the hills on its right proper banks are very bold, and must be over 3000 feet high. If they are not before named, I have called them Gregory's Ranges, after Augustus Gregory. Started at 7-58 A.M., on bearing of E.  $10^{\circ}$  S., for the southern end of dark range in the distance ; dip of sandstone ( $35^{\circ}$ ) to about north-east or a little more east. Passed first over good travelling country ; then through broken ground and rocky ranges, and camped with much difficulty without passing the range. Distance, 18 miles.

*June 14.*—Craggy hills to commence the journey with this morning. This sandy watercourse flows to west and south, a mere narrow channel, but it was of much service to us ; we would have fared badly for the poor animals had we not fallen in with it, insignificant as it appears. Our pack-bags got sadly torn yesterday with broken timber and rocks, all of which latter is sandstone. We passed much splendid splitting timber on our way yesterday, stringy-bark and other trees I don't know the names of, but useful timber. Crossed the ridge, scrub and very precipitous. Camped on creek running north-east. First pines seen to-day since crossing Lake Torrens. Distance, 19 miles.

*June 15.* Camp 18.—The creek receives 3 miles down a considerable tributary from the south-east—in fact, it is the main

channel, and the one we are in the tributary—then it flowed north  $15^{\circ}$  west to north, or nearly so, till 11.45, when the horses knocked up and had to camp. Distance between 5 and 6 miles.

*June 15 to 20.*—At Return Camp 19.

[*Notes.*—After getting to camp, ascended the hills on the right, or eastern side of the river, and never beheld such a fearfully grand country in my life—nothing but towers and pinnacles of sandstone conglomerate, fit for nothing but wallaby and euro. The apparent course of this river, from the greatest height I could get to, is about w.s.w., going, in the first place, after passing the camp, a little more north for 3 or 4 miles—it is a terrible country. I wish I had a little more food,—if I had, I would give the animals a week here, but I have barely sufficient for six days. Oaks have been seen to-day in the bed of the river, since the junction of the two channels. The river runs below the junction of the two branches for some distance, but here it is dry its full width, which is about 150 to 200 yards, and is very picturesque, with beautiful drooping gums, papery-bark trees, and various others, and the bold cliffs towering one above the other in awful grandeur. The country is literally teeming with euro and wallaby. Went up the rocks and precipices on the eastern side of the river, and found that a high range extends eastwards, running north-west and south-east, completely blocking us in from here. Rode down the river to see if there is any likelihood of our getting out east by a tributary that it receives about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile down, but found not. Shot a camel: very tasteless.]

*June 19.*—Having got rid of everything we can possibly spare, and that will now be of little use to us, and followed our tracks back to the junction of the two branches about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, we took the left hand or south-east branch, and found it improve much more than I had anticipated; the rocky hills recede occasionally and leave a nice bank of grass—but most of it recently burned by the natives; and on our left, the rock appeared now to be chiefly slate, while on the right it still remained sandstone and quartz, the bed is broad and generally very open and sandy, upon which we have principally to travel; followed it for about 8 miles in about an E.S.E. course. For some distance (seen from a hill here) the river appears to receive from the east by south generally plenty of water at intervals, and generally at those places running; no doubt, all the way it runs either over or under the land. Where we are now encamped the river is upwards of 150 yards broad. Shot a new pigeon, will try to preserve the skin. Some figs were got by some of the party this morning before starting; I ate one of them apparently ripe, it was very insipid, the principal part of them were full of small flies. Distance travelled by bed of river, about  $10\frac{1}{2}$  miles.



*June 20.*—We have now on hand dried meat sufficient for about five and a half days, at the rate of one pound three ounces per day, without salt or anything else, which is not very heavy diet. I never saw a country where less game was to be obtained; what euro and wallaby are here are so very wild there is no getting near them. Just here the hills are not so high or so rough as some distance further down. Succeeded in finding a road on our left round the range that some barrier-ranges form from. Thence over much more open country, hilly, and thinly clad with small ironbark timber, and chiefly of slate formation and well grassed, but no water. Fortunately we got sufficient at the junction of a small side creek with the main watercourse to suit our immediate wants. It is perfectly surprising to see such a broad channel with such ranges close by and no water. A few kangaroo seen to-day. We managed occasionally during to-day to get upon the slopes from the hills on either side of the creek, which was much better travelling than in the soft sandy bed of the creek, which I have called Stuart's Creek, after Mr. McDouall Stuart. This part would make a good sound sheep country, if water at all times were obtainable. A number of oaks all along this branch, and more just here on our left side of the creek where the water is. Distance  $9\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

*June 21.*—General course to-day about north-east, and fortunately got sufficient water in a barrier in the creek, evidently from recent rain—the bed of the creek otherwise perfectly dry. Ascended hill at camp, and found that the first leading main range bears east and about  $40^{\circ}$  north, which I intend making for. Distance 16 miles.

*June 22.*—The barrier here is composed of a yellow close-grained stone, impregnated with small specks of quartz, and the hills on either side, pieces of granite of the same kind are also strewn in the bed, brought down by the currents. A few oak trees immediately above this camp. Passed over hilly well-grassed ironbark granite country on a bearing of about due east, for the point of a range which I mean to ascend. Got to it at  $11\frac{1}{2}$  miles; then  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile along top of range, the ascent of which we found excessively difficult. Then we got a comparatively easy descent, and made for north end of a heavy range close by on a bearing of E.  $50^{\circ}$  N. At  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile got to the end of it, over rough country intercepted with innumerable creeks, hills, rock, and timber; then bore E.S.E. for distant bluff of range along well-grassed but very hilly sound country for 2 miles. No appearance of water. Went down the spur of a small range we were on, and providentially at the bottom found in a little blind creek sufficient excellent water for ourselves and all the animals. I'm sure I don't know what the poor animals would have done had we not found them water;

and to our uneasiness two of the men, Maitland and Kirby, were seized with sickness on the road and useless to us. I found, after getting over the large range, that I could have got round it had I kept south, and by travelling a circuitous route; but from the western side of the range the way I came was the only way visible that was passable, and it was nearly as impassable as it was possible for it to be. From the top of it you command a very extensive view in all directions. To the south, in the distance, is a fine long leading range, apparently running from W.N.W. to E.S.E.; to the north and west high black ranges; to the east heavy dark ranges, but don't appear united. Drainage I can't make out. Distance, 16 miles (approximative).

*June 23 to 28 at (Return) Camp 23.*—This day had to kill a horse, to jerk. Ascended one of the ridges close by, but could not tell which way the principal drainage went—it is open forest land from north of east by south round to north of west for a great extent of miles, with heavy ranges beyond. The drainage appears to go from here, firstly to the south-east, receiving all the drainage of the large ranges apparently from E.  $20^{\circ}$  S. round to south, when it appears to turn suddenly round some prominent ranges after receiving drainage from the westward of this, and uniting in one large watercourse, and flowing behind a large leading range to south and east; probably the head of the River Clarke takes its rise here. The whole country to-day is, I may say, composed of granite, and sound country well grassed and watered. Distance, about  $10\frac{3}{4}$  to 11 miles.

*June 28.*—Camp 24. The water, although running strong here, is of a milky appearance. Started due east over granite ridge, and crossed swamp and water-creek to north. At  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles boulders of lava on the eastern side; at  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles crossed large creek with plenty of water, which I have called Frank's Creek, after F. Marchant, Esq., of Arkuba; at  $7\frac{3}{4}$  miles crossed a splendid creek with oaks, &c., quantity of swampy ground on either side, flowing same as last, which I have called the George, after George Marchant, Esq., of Wilpena. At 11 miles on top of small rocky range. Most extensive view a-head of level-looking country. At  $12\frac{1}{2}$  miles boggy swamp, went round the south end of it, drainage northward; at 15 miles crossed a good sized creek with sandy bed—some oaks—the water merely trickling through the sand, but sufficient for all our wants; good timber. Camped here. Distance  $15\frac{1}{4}$  miles.

*June 29.*—On starting crossed large rocky creek from the south, with boulders of lava in its bed; a continuation of rough lava country for 3 miles; bad travelling. At  $3\frac{3}{4}$  miles, crossed strong running river or creek, granite bed and fish; oaks on the banks; current to northward, thence over creeks to Lagoon. Saw three

emus to-day, and a few turkeys; kangaroos were also seen for the last two days. The latter part of to-day the feed has been very dry, but generally speaking it is an excellent country for any kind of stock; the only impediment to sheep is the very abrupt banks of the creeks for drays for the cartage of wool—but that would be got over with strict searching. Distance,  $13\frac{3}{4}$  miles.

*June 30.*—A good deal of box and apple-tree about here; our chief timber of late has been ironbark and other very useful trees, with gums always about the creeks and swamps. Saw, yesterday, on the way, a few of that or namental fruit-tree of Cooper's Creek, which I have not seen for some time—but it was of small growth; the soil I suppose not being suitable. Gradually ascended the ridge through thick-timbered country; division of waters, about three quarters of a mile west of the mound or peak I was steering for at 4 miles. Abreast of peak at  $4\frac{3}{4}$  miles; went to top of it; it was very steep and composed of very rough sandstone, granite, and decaying slaty stones. Had a pretty extensive view from it; but my view north of E.  $27\frac{1}{2}$  N. was intercepted by rough ranges. The drainage from this tier of ranges—eastern side—appears in the first instance to go to E.S.E., or even south of that; and afterwards, when all the watercourses unite in the flat some distance off, to go to north and east. Killed another horse. Latter part of to-day's journey very ridgy and rather rough, although well grassed; but indifferent travelling on account of the watercourses down the slopes being rather deep and steep on both sides. Distance, 9 miles.

*July 1 to 4.*—At Camp, "Jack's Swamp," after my unfortunate horse—poor old fellow, many a score miles he carried me. Plenty of splendid timber in this part of the country. A great number of large-sized kangaroos here, but rather shy. Although there is abundance of grass of different kinds here, the camels eat but little of it, and do very badly—about the lakes north-east of Lake Torrens is the place for them, they eat nearly everything in the shape of grass and shrubs that grows there, but here it is quite different—but few acacias here, of which they are very fond. The hills hereabouts are composed of substrata of decomposing sandstone, with roots growing or dead in the fissures, the top rugged at and near the crest, with a description of stone-like decaying burnt brick, broken into fragments, although apparently united—very precipitous, and often overhanging near the tops of the ranges, with table-tops, generally scrubby, still with good timber even on top, and, where it is more open, fair grass in places, and spinifex in others, with heavy deep ravines down the slopes on all sides, and well grassed and timbered in the valleys. From top of range near our camp one has an extensive view; southward is a large valley, the receiver of all the drainage of the

hills east and west of it; south, the range is low, and over it can be discerned several conical wooded hills of greater and lesser sizes; beyond them, in the distance, can be seen two considerable ranges from north-north-east to south-south-west—at the latter point they suddenly terminate in nearly precipitous bluffs, showing that there must be a stream of some importance skirting that end of them, or some extensive valley—an easy way of arriving at them would be south from this camp, and over the low dividing ridge; the waters or creeks in this valley, after uniting into one or more large courses, flow to north and east, till they pass east of this, a few miles off; further view is intercepted by the ranges north and east of that.

*July 4.*—We start from this—"Jack's Swamp," Camp 27—with 46lbs. of dried horse-flesh, which I hope will be sufficient to carry us to stations on the Burdekin. We cannot, however, go direct from the hilliness of the country. All round this quarter quartz of colours is strewed over the face of the country in addition to the decomposing stones. Started firstly up the swamp side, northerly, a short distance, then easterly over a saddle in the range for the eastern slopes, towards the main drainage to the northwards. At half a mile on top of the saddle in the range, with drainage to the east. Then had to keep a little northerly of our course to avoid a rugged range on the right. At about eleven miles direct, struck the main drainage creek; but the actual distance travelled was considerably over that. A large mass of hard, dark-coloured, slaty-looking rock between this and the next creek, with a passage on each side. At 4 miles further, it receives a very deep but narrow creek from the west. Obligated to get into the main creek to pass it. Plenty of water and feed. Camped. A splendid creeper (scarlet) is here upon a number of the trees, climbing to their very top. The fruit is very showy, oblong, and quite the size of an orange, but tastes exceedingly nauseous, full of pulpy seeds—birds and opossums eat them. After getting to camp, went to top of a high range at three-quarter mile distant, east-south-east. From it I had an extensive view. At 40° easy to pass through range. From 82° to 90° very mountainous. 5° a very extensive valley, apparently inclining westwards. Blacks burning at 10° in the distance. North is a large irregular peak range; in the distance another, a little east of it. Distance, 16½ miles.

*July 5.*—The main creek here is well lined with gums and well-grown oaks. The bank fringed with reeds. Lower down is about 50 yards wide, at the bottom level, and twice that width at top, and steep, but grassed all down the slopes. The forest over which we travelled yesterday was very much cut up with sudden and deep water-courses, making the travelling more difficult,

and in many places was stony (brown stone). To-day, crossed creek, and at about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles, had to ascend range. At a short distance over the flat, after descending the range, which was of no great elevation, came on the creek again. As we struck the creek, noticed foot-prints of two horses in the bed of the creek, and shortly after more and more, which at first led us to suppose that the country was stocked thus far up; but after following along in the bed, we found the traces to be all about the same age, and that some time back. At length, on right side of creek, on the bank, at the distance on our last course of  $3\frac{1}{4}$  miles, we saw the remains of an old camp, ridge-pole, and uprights, with the letter K cut on a couple of gum trees, which at once led us to believe it was some party or other marking the boundaries of their runs. Got up out of the creek at this place, and passed over rather open ground. The creek now out of sight, on the left. At  $3\frac{1}{8}$ th miles struck what I take to be the Burdekin, but no tracks of drays or stock of any kind up this length. It flows east at this place. I imagine we are a little above the junction of the Perry with this river. The bed of the Burdekin at this camp is about from 90 to 100 yards, and the strong running stream is confined between bergues on the north side, to a space of about 20 yards, and little better than knee deep. Only a few small fish visible. Magnificent gums on its banks, and plenty of excellent timber in every direction. This will be a most difficult part of the country for drays travelling on account of the many steep-sided creeks. At anything like a flood quite impracticable. Distance,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

*July 6.*—Last evening the wind blew for a short time fresh from east by north, then lulled down; shortly after the sky became overcast, and during the night we had a light Scotch mist; this morning no wind, but sky overcast, with every appearance of rain. We tried some green hide that we were reserving for camel's boots, in our soup of this morning, and being pickled in salt when taken from the bullock, it imparted quite an agreeable flavour to our scanty meal, and we all enjoyed it much. First part of to-day's course through some exceedingly intricate country, hills close on the river, with deep ravines and most difficult travelling. In its present state no dray in the world could pass by it; the latter part was over rather better travelling (though we had to kill another horse that knocked up); the hills still close to the river, with deep ravines. Distance not given.

*July 7.* In Camp.—I went to top of one of the highest hills on right bank of river to-day, and had an extensive view. Between the hill I was on and that, there appears to be a good deal of level-looking country, and the hills on this side seem in a great measure to cease a short distance off. In every other direction it is rugged, with high broken hills, and an indifferent grass upon

them, with the exception of the very limited flats near the river, on which latter there is always abundance of good feed and splendid timber.

*July 8.*—Started late—the horses, even with the abundance of feed here, having strayed in all directions. Route lay through a very broken country all day—indifferent aspect till at the very end, where found flat country, well grassed, and camped. Distance,  $15\frac{1}{4}$  miles.

*July 9.*—Heavy dew last night. To give the horses a chance of doing better, last night they were let go without hobbles, and this morning they have strayed to some distance, and again caused us to be late in starting. Started at 11.10 a.m. A number of natives must have been here on our arrival last afternoon, but must have decamped very hastily on hearing us, leaving all their spears, cooking and cooked vegetables, food, &c., &c.; the food they were cooking in their ovens, and what was lying cooked consisted of excellent roots of some kind or other, and a round fruit which they roast, and which is very good. We used all the roots, and found them most excellent, and left in exchange a tomahawk, which no doubt will suit their purpose as well, and suited us much better. I took the precaution of carrying all their spears up to our camp that, in case they might return to their camp in the night, they might not molest us; it saved us keeping watch, but we neither saw nor heard anything of them, except their dogs howling. Numbers of blue mountain parrots here, and a few ducks only. The river here is formidable, and the banks rather steep for easy access. On a south-south-easterly course, crossing creeks all day. Halted at a couple of lagoons. Distance,  $9\frac{1}{4}$  miles.

*July 10.*—To-day crossed the Clarke River; no stream, but large sheet of water. Ice in the quart-pots this morning; the first we have seen during the whole of our wanderings up to this; but I once before saw where it had nipped off the young burnt feed before making the Burdekin. From south-west by west the large range on opposite side of the Burdekin runs about E.S.E. and W.N.W.; splendid bold mountains; crossed oak creek from south-west by south, at  $9\frac{3}{4}$  miles; from junction of this creek westerly end of mountain range, table-topped, beyond the Burdekin bears N.  $19^{\circ}$  W.; at  $11\frac{1}{4}$  miles crossed small steep creek. The river, now closely confined between steep hills, kept along the stony bottom of the range for some time, but, it being more rough a-head, was obliged to get into and follow the bed of the river for some distance. At  $12\frac{3}{4}$  miles ascended the river-bank on same side; at  $13\frac{1}{4}$  miles crossed very steep creek with water; and at 15 miles halted at a small rocky creek on the ranges, with water and feed sufficient for our use. Since ascending the banks out of the river our course

has been about N.  $50^{\circ}$  E., over a succession of stony ridges with some spinifex. Distance, 15 miles.

*July 11. Camp 34.*—Heavy dew last night. Started on same bearing of S.E., over ridges, till  $3\frac{1}{4}$  miles, being the point where Dr. Leichhardt descended the steep mount close by. From this point the mount and peak on opposite side of the river, some distance off, bears as follows: south-west of table-top, W.  $10^{\circ}$  N., north-east peak, N.  $28\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  W. Got into the bed of the river, here comparatively easily, and followed it down its rocky and sandy bed for some distance, till obliged to turn out on the opposite side. A large island of rocks in the centre of the river, and deep water on both sides; the hills precipitous into the river. We got up the opposite side pretty easily, and followed it down, crossing a deep ravine and stony ridge, and recrossed at  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles, on a bearing north of east, and crossed the river back again—very steep on the side we crossed from, but good getting out—and came over ridgy, and latterly, basalt country, on bearing of about E.S.E., and camped on the opposite side of the river, at 3 miles on last bearing, where there was a suitable place in the bed of the river for killing one of our horses which was completely knocked up. This camp is about 2 miles up from where the river takes a south-east bend, and receives a river running into it at that bend. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from it, and nearer our camp, another large running creek joins the Burdekin. The larger one below, which is about one-third the width of the Burdekin, but down which quite as great a supply of water is running, I have taken the liberty of calling the Bowen, after his Excellency Sir G. Bowen, Governor of Queensland. The latter stream joins the Burdekin from north by east, but comes from distant mountainous ranges to the east of north-east. The smaller stream, the Campbell, joins the Burdekin from north by west, but comes from north, or a little east of that, from a mountainous country. As seen from a hill close by to west of the Campbell, the Burdekin there comes from a little north of west, and flows to S.  $20^{\circ}$  E., but not visible either way far. Distance, 9 miles.

*July 12 to 14.*—In camp. Caught some very nice fish, but not sufficient to be of any real service. The timber is not anything like as large or so good as it is further up the river. The bed of the river here is from 400 to 500 yards wide. We have shot a few crows, a cormorant, and a white eagle with blue back, to make a stew for breakfast; that, with a little salted hide, and about 2 lbs. dried meat, will make a very good meal, as matters stand at present. The remainder of the dried meat, and what we may shoot, I hope will last us as far as the Farming River, which is about 90 miles from this, which river I saw people start for from Sydney upwards of twelve months ago, and they must certainly be there

now: perhaps we may be fortunate enough to meet them this side of that. I have been quite disappointed at not finding the stations much higher up the river even than where I now am.

*July 15.*—Travelled all day over steep but fine grass, alternating with stony ridges, and creeks well watered. Made river at a point where it is forced by rocks on the opposite side to this, sweeping out a very large piece of the bank on this side, to the distance of several hundred yards, making the river-bed at this sweep quite 800 yards across, and well timbered round the sweep on this side: caught some excellent fish this afternoon; a black bream, the largest 5 inches deep, and 15 to 16 inches in length, excellent firm-eating fish, and a great help to our evening meal. Saw a platypus in the river this afternoon, first I have seen during the journey. Cormorants here are numerous. Distance,  $15\frac{3}{4}$  miles.

*July 16.*—Crossing creeks and passing through same country till we made the river, at  $9\frac{3}{4}$  miles, where some drays and sheep had crossed some time since: followed the river down  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile s.s.w., and crossed a fine creek from west by north, and camped about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile up the creek: one branch of it comes from north-west by north; the other and best from west half south. Basalt ridge close to the river and south banks of the creek: a short distance down the river a cliffy precipitous tier of ranges comes right on to the river with dark scrubby-looking tops. On the right bank of the creek, with its junction with the river, is a mass of sandstone, with bullets of stones through it, and a yellow hard-looking clay, perfectly detached, the clay wall having a dip of about  $45^{\circ}$  to south-west: abundance of water up the left hand or southernmost creek. Distance travelled, 20 to 21 miles.

*July 17.* Camp 36.—Ice again this morning; very cold during the night. Started at 8 A.M.;  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles on bearing of south by east, along and over basalt country; crossed rocky oak creek at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from west by south, swampy; continued this bearing for  $6\frac{1}{4}$  to 7 miles, and changed course to  $60^{\circ}$  east of south:  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile, an immense swamp and lagoons, basalt ridges: close round crossed over these ridges; bore a little more to the east; and at  $5\frac{3}{4}$  crossed a splendid stream, from south by west, with a number of ana branches. Basalt on the flats as well as the ridges: changed course to about east by south, horses tiring; halted at same strong-running stream at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles: as it passes, it flows over falls in an E.S.E. course, along the foot of basalt ridges, and comes, as far as visible, from west and north: opposite side of the Burdekin River are bald-topped ridges, about 8 miles distant; basalt ridge on this side a considerable distance in that direction. Distance, 22 miles to-day. Large masses of granite are here in the bed of the rivers, and on the banks, although the ridges close by are composed of very cellular basalt and close-grained sandstone. From the top of



the heights, close to our camp, lots of tracks of sheep and cattle. No appearance of a station: fancy they have taken to the creeks. Distance, 22 miles.

*July 18.*—Browne River, on which we are, runs parallel to the Burdekin for some distance, and at only a very short distance between. Passed through indifferent land till we reached a scrub quite impassable, but full of game. Then crossed an oak creek, from south half-east, with water coming from west side of stony ridges; then about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile further to river, in a course E.  $15^{\circ}$  S., followed down the river for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile, and camped. Distance about  $16\frac{1}{4}$  miles.

*July 19.*—Spelled. Very cold night, beautiful morning, and throughout the day the same weather.

*July 20.* Camp 38.—Proceed down the river; thence over nice undulating country, till we reached the river; then camped in bed of creek; lot of young oaks in bed of creek, just sprouting. The timber here is neither so abundant nor so good for building purposes as higher up the river; the latter is from 700 to 800 yards broad here, and a strong running stream on right side. Distance,  $14\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

*July 21.*—Crossed numerous sandy creeks, then reached a fine creek with excellent timber; afterwards a ridgy country. The country here has all been burned. Distance travelled, about  $16\frac{1}{4}$  miles.

*July 22.* Camp 40.—Made Burdekin River at 8 miles. Highest point of Mount Razorback bears from that point a little east of E.N.E. Country very ridgy, and inclined to be slightly scrubby. Made the river again at 14 miles. Latter part very ridgy, and many precipitous creeks from the slopes, but otherwise well grassed. The greater part of the country travelled over to-day was of granite formation, with veins of quartz here and there, and lots of loose quartz scattered about. The river here comes from north for some distance; and after it has passed this, reaches a range about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile down the river, that appears to come right on it, whence it bears off suddenly to the north of east. It perfectly astonishes me not meeting any settlers ere this. Distance, about 22 miles.

*July 23.*—Wind cold, from north by west; no dew or frost.

*July 24.* Camp 41.—Crossed the river here, to save a considerable sweep, first to south, between  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 miles, then to north of east. We have been compelled to kill a sixth horse for food. I trust it may be the last: went across the river yesterday, and saw the tracks of a few head of cattle, and, from what I could judge, not very old: hope to get to a station during the day. From our camp here a fine peak on left side of river, between main range and river, bears  $48^{\circ}$  east of north. At the bend on right bank of river, below our camp, quite 2 miles distant, the end of a large

hill comes on to the river, bearing s.  $15^{\circ}$  w. ; a very rugged peak east of it, on same side, bears s.  $3\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  w. Only two pack-horses and one camel now. Over stony granite ridges : made the river at a southerly bend at 8 miles. A deep creek joins at this bend. Then bearing south-east by south for a peak a-head, at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles crossed large oak creek. The river immediately below this passes in an easterly direction, between two ranges that come right on to it. Distance not given.

*July 25.*—Started first over stony ridge, then good open forest, on a bearing of east by south ; at 5 miles struck a river from N.N.W., which, immediately after crossing, went about east half-north. This river I have called the Forster, after A. W. Forster, Esq., of the Murray, New South Wales ; followed it in its course for  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles ; it then suddenly turns south-east ; had to follow it  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile. I then crossed over, and went on a bearing of east by north, through open country, till, at  $1\frac{3}{4}$  mile, crossed a fine river, from north by west, which I have called the Scott. Went on this course about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles ; ascended a peak here, and found Mount McConnell to bear s.  $45^{\circ}$  w. Another large conspicuous mount, from 7 to 8 miles off, bears N.  $20^{\circ}$  w. The camel about done up, and the country next to impassable : before getting to camp had to ascend a long stony and steep range ; and no sooner up than down again in another place. Distance,  $15\frac{3}{4}$  miles.

*July 26.* Camp 43.—Started, following the River Scott. On the left bank is a high precipitous mountain. Just as the river takes a south-east course, the Scott joins the Burdekin as it comes from S.S.W., flowing to N.N.E. In its whole width a perfect mass of slippery rocks and deep water, and where we struck it no apparent current ; although, when it contracts more and runs through more narrow rocks, there is a strong and rapid stream. After getting about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles along its bank in a N.N.W. direction, was compelled to halt ; perfectly impracticable, and will be a most intricate crossing. This is a fearful country, and now that I see it, I am not the least surprised at not finding the Upper Burdekin peopled and stocked. A man has difficulty in getting along on foot, much more so with quadrupeds ; as for vehicles of any kind, quite out of the question anywhere in this quarter. I am at present at a loss to conjecture how the dray, or drays and stock, found their way up the river so far, unless they went up west of Mount McConnell, or found some more practicable route lower down the Burdekin, which latter I very much doubt. We are encamped by a large gum tree, as the river takes an east by south course for some distance. The most rugged country a man would ever wish to behold ; and to add to our difficulties in swimming across, numbers of huge alligators are here close to the camp. I ascended the hill, just

behind our camp, with much difficulty, to view the country ahead and about me. It was exceedingly stony and rocky. From it an extensive view, but much higher hills were in the distance in various directions. It is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile distant from our camp, and bears from camp w.  $30^{\circ}$  s. ; Mount McConnell bears w.  $32^{\circ}$  n. A conspicuous dark mount, from eight to ten miles off, bears n.  $34\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  e., round the north end of which the Burdekin passes. Distance  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile.

*July 27.*—No passage over the ridge or mountains practicable. A raft constructed of such materials as we can get here, floated but indifferently with our canteens, one leaky air-pillow, and our boiling vessels inverted, some of which were not air-tight, is ready for crossing to-morrow, the things and the men that swim but indifferently ; many of the alligators close by in the same reach.

*July 28.*—After much swimming by Middleton and Hodgkinson, we managed to cross all the things and the camel. The horses we could not get to cross, so left them with the men to look after them, till to-morrow, when we shall try them again, and hope for better success. It is a most difficult, intricate, and dangerous place ; if they all cross in safety, it is more than I expect.

*July 29.*—Camp 45. By much perseverance and difficulty got the horses and remainder of the men safe across ; by 4 p.m., packed up and started down the river east by south very rough, walking nearly all the way for about one mile, at which place we take to the ranges. In the morning, on our way, at about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a mile, two considerable running creeks join the river ; another running creek joins the river at camp.

*July 30.*—Camp 46 (and last). Started at 10.15, and at once tackled the range—up a steep hill, down again in a north-east by north direction, crossed a deep ravine, and ascended the first of a series of steep stony hills in a north-east by east course. From the summit, Mount McConnell bears w.  $24^{\circ}$  s. The conspicuous mount, round the north side of which the Burdekin passes, bears n.  $23^{\circ}$  e. Followed the river in that direction for about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles to a creek, the north and east drainage of the large range under the western side of which we were latterly travelling, and round the termination of them we camped at a running creek of excellent water, coming from east of south-east. We are here very reluctantly obliged to kill our good and faithful companion, the last remaining camel (“Siva”), that was with us in all our reconnoitring and other journeys ; he was indeed a splendid animal, but now quite unfit to travel beyond this. I hope to get sufficient of his flesh to carry us into a station, or, if the country is at all passable, to Port Denison. We are encamped under some splendid shady large-leaved tree in the bed of the creek—leaves about 10

inches broad and 12 to 15 inches long. Some of the men found that the leaves, dry, were a good substitute for tobacco, and were soon puffing a cloud.

*July 31.*—Spelled here to-day to boil down camel. The remnants of a broken gourd we found here; it has been used as a vessel for carrying water; it was the size of a large cocoa-nut, with a neck about 6 inches long, through one side of which they had drilled a hole for a cord for slinging on their arms.

*August 1.*—In camp.

*Saturday, Aug. 2.*—Started at 8:53 A.M., course east by north, each man taking with him a certain weight of the boiled camel before him, as we are now reduced to 11 horses, one alone with pack-bags. After travelling for some 9 or 10 miles, we came upon the tracks of bullocks, quite fresh, and shortly after were gratified by the sight of the bullocks themselves, with two white men tailing them. We soon now were pitching into roast-beef and damper, and, don't let me forget, potatoes, salt, and mustard. The station belongs to Messrs. Harvey and Somers, and is situated on the River Bowen, a stream that flows northward into the Burdekin. Mr. Somers was not in on our arrival; he soon, however, came in, and we were most hospitably received by him. The flour, during the night and for some few days after, had the most astonishing effect on all of us, from the fact that our digestive organs could not digest the bread, being so accustomed to the easily-digested meat; we were most of us in great pain, and our legs and feet swelled very much.

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3.—(a). *Extracts from Report of W. LANDSBOROUGH, in command of the Queensland Burke Relief Expedition, to Captain NORMAN, with reference to the Albert River.*

Sweer's Island, 8th October, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to inform you of the following particulars with regard to the Albert River :—On Tuesday morning (the 1st inst.), at 8 o'clock, we reached the mouth of the Albert River, at the sandy beach of Kangaroo Point. With the exception of Kangaroo Point, on the east bank, the river has an unbroken fringe of mangrove to a point 2 miles in a straight line from its mouth, and an unbroken fringe to a point 3 miles in a straight line from the mouth on the other side of the river. Above these points the lower part of the river has (where the edges have no mangrove)